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REMARKS

Disposition of Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-13, 15-31, and 33-36 (as amended) will remain pending in the application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification particularly at paragraphs 41 and 44. Claim 11 has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the claims do not recite the required amount of acylating agent. Claim 33 now has been amended to recite that the tissue is acylated with an acylating agent in an amount of about 0.1% to about 0.3% of wet tissue weight for a time ranging from about 30 seconds to about 10 minutes as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 34-36 are dependent on amended claim 33.

The Office Action further rejects claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 21, 25, 26 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the claims state a ratio percentage. These claims now have been amended to recite that the amount of the acylating agent is about 0.1% to about 0.3% of wet tissue weight as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1, 8, 13, 20-21, 25-26, 28-31, and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action states that claims 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Kelman et al., U.S. Patent 5,332,802 ("Kelman") and claims 1, 3-13, 15-31, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kelman.

However, the Office Action adds that independent claims 1, 13, 21, 26, and 33 and the dependent claims thereon would be allowable if the independent claims recited the reaction time for the acylation of the tissue. In response, these claims have been amended to state that the tissue is exposed to an acylating agent for a time ranging from about 30 seconds to about 10 minutes. Applicants submit that Kelman does not disclose or suggest a method or composition as recited in claims 1-36 as amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested

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that the rejections of claims 1, 13, 21, 26, and 33 and the dependent claims thereon under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants submit that all of the claims presented for consideration herein are patentable and each of the Examiner's rejections and objections has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-13, 15-31, and 33-36 (as amended).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required in connection with the filing of this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 02-0900.

Should there be any outstanding matter that needs to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: OCTOBER 6th, 2003